

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
 - 2 (a) detecting a fault condition;
 - 3 (b) determining a solution for correcting said fault condition; and
 - 4 (c) providing a graphical depiction which illustrates said solution to said fault
 - 5 condition; wherein said graphical depiction is displayed on a display device.
- 1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fault condition is at
2 least one of lack of connectivity, lack of an alternating current electrical source, and
3 low battery power.
- 1 3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said fault condition is
2 detected by an absence of a signal.
- 1 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising removing said
2 graphical depiction from said display device when said fault condition has been
3 corrected.
- 1 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said graphical depiction is
2 at least one of a static depiction and an animated depiction.
- 1 6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fault condition is a
2 lack of a video signal received by a monitor of a personal computer.

1 7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein graphical depiction
2 includes a color coded monitor cable being plugged into a color coded connector.

[illegible]

- 1 8. A method, comprising:
- 2 (a) providing a help routine; said help routine including a list of functions an
- 3 apparatus is capable of performing;
- 4 (b) receiving a selection of a particular function; and
- 5 (c) displaying a graphical depiction of at least one step for activating said
- 6 particular function on a display device of said apparatus.

- 1 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising providing a
- 2 display suitable for a user to perform a first step in activating said particular function.

- 1 10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said graphical depiction is
- 2 at least one of a static depiction and an animated depiction.

- 1 11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said graphical depiction is
- 2 in color.

- 1 12. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said apparatus is at least
- 2 one of a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, a monitor, television, a remote
- 3 control, a computer, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital storage medium player and
- 4 a network device.

1 13. An apparatus, comprising:
2 (a) means for determining if an instruction is necessary;
3 (b) a controller coupled to said determining means;
4 (c) a memory coupled to said controller; and
5 (d) a display device coupled to said controller, wherein upon a determination if
6 said instruction is necessary, said controller determines an appropriate
7 graphical depiction to aid a user which is displayed on said display device.

1 14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said determining means
2 is capable of detecting a fault condition.

1 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said determining means
2 includes an interface capable of receiving an input from a user that instruction is
3 necessary regarding activating a function of said apparatus.

1 16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said determining means
2 detects said fault condition by an absence of a signal.

1 17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said graphical depiction
2 is at least one of a static depiction and an animated depiction.

1 18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said graphical depiction
2 is in color.

1 19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said apparatus is at
2 least one of a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, a monitor, a computer, a
3 television, a remote control, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital storage medium
4 player and a network device.

1 20. An apparatus, comprising:
2 (a) a housing including a display disposed within said housing;
3 (b) a connector disposed on said housing;
4 (c) means for detecting whether a proper connection is not made with said
5 connector; and
6 (d) means for displaying on the display a pictographical solution for providing a
7 proper connection with said connector in the event that said detecting means
8 detects that a proper connection is not made with said connector.

1 21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said means for displaying being
2 capable of displaying a graphical depiction of the solution on the display.

1 22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said means for displaying being
2 capable of displaying an animated graphical depiction of the solution on the display.

1 23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said housing including a display
2 being at least one device selected from the group comprising: a monitor, a television,
3 a computer, a personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a CD player, a digital storage
4 medium player, and a network device.

1 24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said means for displaying being
2 disposed within said housing along with the display.

1 25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said means for displaying further
2 displaying a message indicating that a proper connection is made with said connector
3 when said detecting means detects that a proper connection is made with said
4 connector.

- 1 26. An apparatus, comprising:
- 2 (a) a housing including a display within said housing;
- 3 (b) a connector disposed on said housing;
- 4 (c) means for detecting whether a proper connection is not made with said
- 5 connector; and
- 6 (d) means for displaying on the display an iconographical depiction for a user a
- 7 solution with which the user can cause a proper connection to be made with
- 8 said connector.

- 1 27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 26, said means for displaying further
- 2 displaying a message indicating that a proper connection is made with said connector
- 3 when said detecting means detects that a proper connection is made with said
- 4 connector.